

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/056 W

-----310926Z 120448 /10

R 310843Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5468

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA A1513

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KS, KN

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN PRESSURE FOR PHILIPPINE RECOGNITION

REF: SEOUL 0508

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON ROK POLCOUNS CHANG SOUK KIM JAN 28 TO DISCUSS REPORTS THAT FREINDS OF MRS. IMELDA MARCOS ARE EAGER FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH NORTH KOREA IN RESPONSE TO LONG-STANDING PRESSURES FROM PYONGYANG. EMBOFF SAID LATEST FLURRY OF PSECULATION APPARENTLY SET OFF BY ITEM IN "INTELLIGENCE" COLUMN OF DEC 31 FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW DESCRIBING ROUND OF CONTACTS IN PEKING LAST SUMMER BETWEEN PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR BENJAMIN "KOKOY" ROMUALDEZ, BROTHER OF MRS. MARCOS, AND NORTH KOREAN OFFICIALS. ITEM ALLEGES THAT MRS. MARCOS HAS PERSONALLY MET TWICE WITH NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS. EMBOFF NOTED SIMILAR STORIES HAVE BEEN IN CIRCULATION FOR MANY MONTHS. HE OBSERVED THAT WE HAD NO CONFIRMING EVIDENCE OF MRS. MARCOS' PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT.

2. KIM SAID HE NOT AWARE OF SIGNIFICANT NEW DEVELOPMENTS SINCE NK-ROMUALDEZ CONTACTS IN PEKING LAST SUMMER (AUGUST).

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KIM ADDED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS REASONABLY CERTAIN THAT AS LONG AS ROMULO IS IN OFFICE HE WILL MAINTAIN THE CURRENT POLICY OUT OF STRONG FRIENDSHIP FOR SOUTH KOREA, BUT GROK IS WORRIED ABOUT ROMULO'S TENURE ESPECIALLY SINCE UNFORTUNATE SNAG IN US BASE NEGOTIATIONS LAST DECEMBER. HE ALSO OBSERVED (AND EMBOFF AGREED) THAT SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DETER

MANILA FROM WELCOMING NK EMBASSY, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF
RECENT SCANDALS INVOLVING NK DIPLOMATS.

3. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT REPORT CITED REFTEL
MAY BE NO MORE THAN RECYCLING OF CURRENT
ACCUMULATION OF RUMORS. HOWEVER WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT
KOKOY, AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO, J.V. CRUZ AND OTHER FRIENDS
OF MRS. MARCOS FAVOR RECOGNITION OF PYONGYANG AS PART
OF GENERAL REAPPROACHMENT WITH COMMUNIST/THIRD WORLD
POWERS. IT IS APPARENTLY A FACT THAT ROMULO IS IMPORTANT
FACTOR IN MAINTENANCE OF THE STATUS QUO AND HIS
RETIREMENT COULD PRECIPITATE CHANGE RATHER SWIFTLY.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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